



**NO FURTHER ACTION DECISION DOCUMENT FOR
SS-034, SOUTH CLEAR ZONE
PLATTSBURGH AFB, NY
DECLARATION STATEMENT
August 1999**

SITE NAME AND LOCATION

SS-034-South Clear Zone
Plattsburgh Air Force Base (AFB), NY

PHYSICAL SETTING

Site SS-034 is an approximately four acre triangular shaped site located about 1,000 feet east of the southern end of the Plattsburgh AFB runway near Route 9 (Atch 1). It is bordered by undeveloped wooded areas to the east, the Salmon River to the south, and the Delaware & Hudson Railroad to the west. The area is covered with grasses and trees. Two concrete footings and a pile of railroad ties are the remains of where the asphalt plant and propane distributorship was once located.

The site is relatively flat except at its southern boundary, where a steep slope drops approximately 25 feet to the Salmon River. Surface water drainage generally flows toward the Salmon River, but on the western portion of the site, some flow may enter the drainage ditch that parallels the Delaware & Hudson Railroad and discharges into the Salmon River.

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The United States Air Force (USAF) had acquired this formerly privately-owned property in the early 1980's to establish a clear zone. Thirty years prior, during the construction of Route 9, an asphalt batch plant was reportedly located on site. There is no specific information available on the operation of the plant but the abandoned railroad sidings that lead to the site may have once serviced the batch plant. It is assumed that petroleum products used and/or stored at the plant may have included No. 2 fuel oil for the aggregate dryer, asphalt cement, and possibly diesel oil and gasoline for onsite equipment and trucks.

Approximately 20 years prior to the property being acquired by Plattsburgh AFB, the property was leased by a propane dealer for use as a storage facility. The distributor recalled the presence of three half-buried tanks at the site when he first moved his operation to this location. The largest tank was estimated to have a volume of 100 gallons, but there is no information available as to the contents, locations, or disposition of the tanks.

Upon acquiring the property, the USAF demolished the existing structures. During the demolition of a building related to the propane storage facility, a buried steel tank was

uncovered. The tank and the buried connecting pipe indicate that this was a septic tank. The tank was removed from the site and disposed of in July 1997.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

A preliminary assessment, consisting of a review of historical records, personnel interviews, and a site walkover, was conducted in 1992. An isolated tar spill on the abandoned railroad siding was the only visual evidence of contamination noted on the site during the preliminary assessment. In subsequent visits by USAF personnel and during the site investigation, the only tar noted was found on the top surface of four railroad ties that were part of the abandoned railroad siding.

During November and December 1994, site investigations (SI) field activities were conducted and consisted of advancing and sampling eight soil borings. Initially, three groundwater monitoring wells were also to be installed. Two soil samples were to be collected from each of the three completed wells. Due to the presence of a shallow clay layer across the site, the sampling and analysis plan had to be revised. Eight shallow borings were substituted for the three monitoring wells originally proposed. Ten discrete soil samples were collected, and no groundwater samples were collected. The samples were analyzed for Target Compound List (TCL) volatile and semivolatile organic compounds and Target Analyte List (TAL) metals. Four organic compounds and 19 of the 23 TAL metals were detected in the soil samples. A summary of the analytes detected in the soil samples from the SI report are found in Atch. 2.

Of the four organic compounds detected, two were solvents (acetone and 1,1,1-trichloroethane) and two were plasticizers (diethylphthalate and di-n-butylphthalate). None of the organic compounds exceeded their respective To Be Considered (TBC) (regulatory) values.

Nineteen of the 23 TAL metals analyzed were detected in the soil samples, with 11 of the 19 detected metal concentrations showing slight exceedences of their respective TBC values. These metals were aluminum, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, iron, magnesium, manganese, nickel, potassium, sodium, and zinc. These slightly elevated metal concentrations, as compared to background soil samples from other areas of the base, are likely attributable to the natural differences in soil elemental composition rather than soil contamination from past activities at the site.

HUMAN HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT

As part of the SI, a baseline health risk assessment was prepared to evaluate potential adverse human health effects resulting from exposure to contaminants from SS-034 in the absence of remedial measures. Risk posed by exposure to site soils given reasonably expected current and future exposure scenarios were quantified in compliance with appropriate USEPA guidance documents. No unacceptable carcinogenic or noncarcinogenic human health risk is associated with exposure to site soils.

REGULATORY CONCURRENCE

A draft final SI report was provided for regulatory review. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) in correspondence dated January 14, 1998 concurred with the USAF recommendation of No Further Action made in the SI report. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) in their letter of November 17, 1997 indicated that all of their comments had been adequately addressed, and made no further comments acknowledging that no further action was necessary at Site SS-034, South Clear Zone. (Atch. 3)

STATEMENT OF BASIS

This decision is based on the results of the Preliminary Assessment conducted in 1992 and the Draft Final Site Investigation (SI) Report on the South Clear Zone (SS-034) dated October 1997. The SI report presented data gathered during SI field activities at the South Clear Zone site during November and December 1994.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SELECTED REMEDY

Based on the current conditions at IRP site SS-034, it has been determined that no significant risk or threat to public health or the environment exists. Therefore, no further action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended is required.

DECLARATION

This Decision Document (DD) represents the selected action for this site developed in accordance with CERCLA, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), and the National Contingency Plan (NCP). It also satisfies the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act that apply to CERCLA response actions. It has been determined that the selected remedy of no further action is protective of human health and the environment, attains federal and state requirements that are applicable or relevant and appropriate, and is cost-effective. The statutory preference for further treatment is not satisfied because further treatment was not found to be necessary. Contaminant levels at the site have been determined to present no significant threat to human health or the environment; thus, no treatment is necessary.



Michael D. Sorel, P.E.

Site Manager/BRAC Environmental Coordinator
AFBCA/DA Plattsburgh

8-18-99

Date



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

Working Copy

JAN 14 1998

Mr. Michael D. Sorel, P.E.
BRAC Environmental Coordinator
AFBCA/DA
426 U.S. Oval, Suite 2200
Plattsburgh, New York 12903

Re: Review of the Draft Final Site Investigation Report for Site
SS-034 (South Clear Zone)

Dear Mr. Sorel:

EPA has reviewed the Draft Final Site Investigation (SI) Report for Site SS-034 (South Clear Zone). Based on the results of the SI Report, EPA concurs with the Air Force's recommendation for No Further Remedial Action at this site.

No reference to property categorization for the purposes of property transfer was found by EPA in the document. Please note that based on the results of the SI, the property should not be considered "uncontaminated" for the purposes of property transfer. It is stated on page 5-1 of the SI Report that the detections of 1,1,1-trichloroethane in soil boring sample WB-MW-34-003 "may indicate the downward migration of a former solvent spill on the ground surface at this location."

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to call me at (212) 637-4331.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Morse

Robert D. Morse
Remedial Project Manager

cc: J. Quinn, NYSDEC

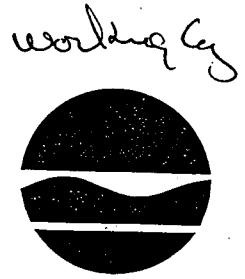
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JAN 23 1998

AFBCA/DA PBC

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5/2/98

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
50 Wolf Road, Albany, New York 12233-7010



John P. Cahill
Commissioner

November 17, 1997

Mr. Michael Sorel, P.E.
AFBCA/DAE
426 U.S. Oval, Suite 2210
Plattsburgh Air Force Base, NY 12903

Dear Mr. Sorel:

Re: Draft Final SI Report, SS-034 (South Clear Zone)

As discussed via telephone by our respective staff, we have received the Draft Final Site Investigation (SI) Report for SS-034 (South Clear Zone) and find that it adequately addresses our comments offered on the initial draft. This letter will serve to document this conversation for the Administrative Record.

If you should have any questions, please contact me at (518) 457-3976.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of James A. Quinn.

James A. Quinn
Bureau of Eastern Remedial Action
Division of Environmental Remediation

c: R. Morse, USEPA-Region II

RECEIVED

NOV 20 1997

AFBCA/DA PBG

A handwritten signature and a stamp that reads "BEC" and "SERVED".



NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
50 Wolf Road, Albany, New York 12233

September 5, 1995

Michael D. Zagata
Commissioner

Mr. Michael D. Sorel, P.E.
380 ST/CEV
324 U.S. Oval Street
Plattsburgh AFB, NY 12903-3316

Re: Draft Site Investigation
SS-034, South Clear Zone
Plattsburgh Air Force Base ID No. 510003

Dear Mr. Sorel:

New York State has received and reviewed the draft site investigation report for SS-034, South Clear Zone at Plattsburgh Air Force Base. We have no comments to offer at this time.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me at (518) 457-3976.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James B. Lister".

James B. Lister, P.E.
Bureau of Eastern Remedial Action
Division of Hazardous Waste Remediation

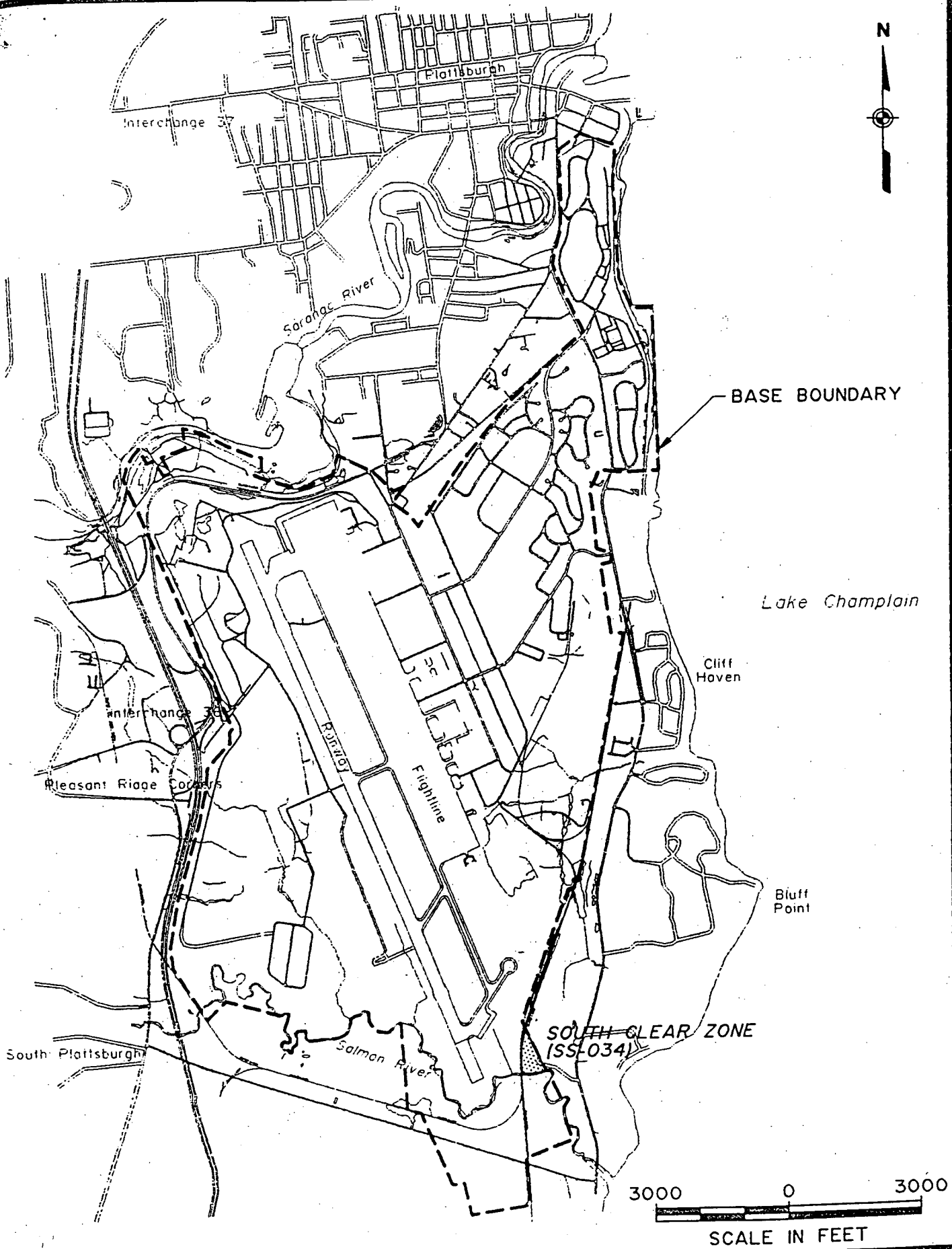
cc: R. Morse, USEPA-Region II

BEC
Steve

Atch 1

Location Maps
SS-34

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AC-7010

URS
CONSULTANTS, INC.

PLATTSBURGH AFB
LOCATION OF IRP SITE SS-034

FIGURE I-2